

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /067 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5324

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JA, KS

SUBJECT: ALLEGED KCIA PAYOFFS TO JAPANESE POLITICIANS

SUMMARY: ALLEGED KCIA PAYOFFS TO JAPANESE POLITICIANS WAS TAKEN UP IN DIET FEBRUARY 7, WHEN OPPOSITION SOUGHT REPORT ON GOJ INVESTIGATION. FONMIN SAID THAT QUERIES IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND SEOUL HAD BROUGHT NEGATIVE RESPONSE. FEB. 7 ASAHI AND NHK STORIES KEPT POT BUBBLING, HOWEVER, WITH REPORTS FROM US HINTING AT PAYOFFS IN CONNECTION WITH SEOUL SUBWAY AND GOJ YEN LOANS TO ROK. END SUMMARY.

1. ALLEGED KCIA PAYOFFS TO JAPANESE POLITICIANS WAS RAISED IN FEBRUARY 7 LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE WHEN JSP SEC GEN ISHIBASHI ASKED FOR REPORT ON RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED THUS FAR INTO SO-CALLED "RANDARD STATEMENTS." FONMIN HATOYAMA REPLIED THAT DEPARTMENT HAD INFORMED GOJ THAT RANARD STATEMENTS WERE THOSE OF PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL AND HAD NO OFFICIAL STATUS; THAT, AS PROBLEM CONCERNED ROK AND GOJ, USG WAS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED; AND THAT IN KEEPING WITH LONG-STANDING POLICY USG WOULD NOT COMMENT ON MATTERS REGARDING INTELLIGENCE REPORTS. HATOYAMA SAID THAT ROK FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS NO TRUTH TO RANARD ALLEGATIONS. HE SAID THAT HE UNCLASSIFIED

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HAD INSTRUCTED GOJ EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO GET IN TOUCH WITH RANARD, BUT IT HAD NOT AS YET BEEN ABLE TO DO SO.

2. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER ISHIBASHI QUESTIONING, PRIMIN SAID AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE THAT KCIA HAD MADE PAYOFFS TO JAPANESE DIETMEN.

HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT USG RESPONSE WAS NOT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR BUT ADDED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW-UP ON STATEMENTS OF PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS. HE WOULD CONTINUE INVESTIGATION EFFORT, BUT EXPECTED NO STARTLING RESULTS.

3. FEBRUARY 7 ASAHI AS WELL AS NHK CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH LEE JEH YONG, DIRECTOR OF ROK INFORMATION OFFICE IN US AND PRESENTLY PROFESSOR AT WESTERN ILLINOIS STATE COLLEGE, IN WHICH LEE SAID THAT WHILE DIFFICULT TO PROVE, ROK HAD IN FACT MADE PAYOFFS TO JAPANESE POLITICIANS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASES OF ROLLING STOCK FOR SEOUL SUBWAY. ACCORDING TO LEE, 20-30 PER CENT OF PURCHASE PRICE HAD BEEN SHARED BETWEEN JAPANESE AND KOREAN POLITICIANS. HE ADDED THAT SIMILAR PAYOFFS HAD BEEN MADE IN CONNECTION WITH YEN LOANS TO ROK FOR WHICH JAPANESE "ROK LOBBY" HAD ACTED AS AGENTS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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